

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
School of Medicine

January 30, 1961

Davenport 1-1200
Cables STANMED

Robert E. Cooke, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics
The Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore 5, Maryland

Dear Bob:

I am sorry not to have had a chance to reply sooner to your letter of January 5.

I would have no hesitation in adding my own strong endorsement to the promotion of Dr. Barton Childs to the rank of Professor. As you know, we would have been very much interested in Barton for a similar post at the University of Wisconsin and he was considered to be very well qualified by our colleagues generally for a comparable or even more responsible position here at Stanford. Everyone I know in the field of pediatrics-genetics has a very high regard for him. I should say that this regard is based more on his talent for bringing together clinical insight and a broad scientific background rather than for striking originality in medical genetics as a biometrical or a biochemical discipline. However, I would think enough of his overall ability to have no hesitation in proposing him for a similar rank in my own department and his reputed clinical ability could only add to his merits for a Department of Pediatrics. We certainly need more men like Barton Childs to bring the message of basic genetic research to clinical teaching and general practice. If I may just take the opportunity to put in one more plug, I would say that he would be especially valuable in an environment where he remains in close contact with basic research programs in genetics.

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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